THE

Two MEMORIALS

Delivered this Inſtant *January* by

Mr. SYDNEY,

His MAJESTY of *Great Britains* Envoy Extraordinary Reſiding at the *HAGUE*, to the States-General of the United Provinces, to Induce their Lordſhips not to enter into a League Defenſive with the *French* King.

Together with the Reaſons delivered to the States-General by the *FRENCH* AMBASSADOR reſiding in the ſame place, for their entring into ſuch Defenſive Leagues as by his Maſter the *French* King is deſired and preſt for. Worthy of all good *Engliſh* Mens Peruſing.

The Memoir of Mr. Sydney, *Extraordinary Envoy of the King of* Great Britain, *preſented to my Lords the States-General of the United Provinces the* 9th *of* January, $16\frac{79}{80}$.

THE ſubſcribed extraordinary Envoy of the King of *Great Britain*, doubts not but your Lordſhips are well informed by the Embaſſador you have near His Majeſty, with what aſtoniſhment and trouble he received the Inſtances made to your Lordſhips by the moſt Chriſtian King to enter into a Defenſive League with him; and ſince the *French* Embaſſador by his Memoir preſented yeſterday to your Lordſhips, hath ſo vehemently reiterated the ſame, he cannot forbear to repreſent by expreſs order from his Maſter, that he cannot look on this Alliance other than as a League to be made againſt him, after your Lordſhips had made ſuch difficulty to paſs the Act of Guaranty of the Peace concluded at *Nimmeguen*, to which you were obliged by the two ſolemn Treaties of the 10 *January*, and 26 of *July*, 1678.

That the King his Maſter cannot comprehend this Alliance to have other proſpect than the ſole defence of *France*, or of this State: The *French* King being in a profound Peace, fearing nothing from the Princes his neighbours; and your Lordſhips alſo not having any ſubject to apprehend you may be unquieted by them; ſo that this League can have no other end but to facilitate the means for his reſentment and diſpleaſure conceived from the ſeparate Peace made between his Maſter and this State in 1674; and the zeal his Majeſty expreſſed in obtaining for your Lordſhips and your Allies, a Peace more advantageous than that concluded at *Nimmeguen*, and to have Guaranted that Peace alſo.

If your Lordſhips reflect upon the *French* King's Declaration given the Embaſſadors, that he ſhould regard this Guaranty of the Peace, as a League made againſt him,

him, though ſolemnly ſtipulated by his and your Lordſhips Plenipotentiaries at *Nimmeguen*, you will not be aſtoniſhed at the Reſentments of the *French* King on this occaſion; and my Maſter cannot perſwade himſelf that your Lordſhips who have always expreſſed a deſire to live in good and ſtrict union with Him, will engage your ſelves in an Alliance ſo oppoſite to His Intereſt, to which your Lordſhips are no ways obliged, the which will certainly break this Union wholly, and oblige His Majeſty to take other meaſures.

Given at the Hague *this 9th of* January, $16\frac{79}{80}$.

SYDNEY.

The Memoir of Mr. Sydney, *Envoy Extraordinary of the King of* Great Britain; *preſented to the States-General of the United Provinces, the* 23. *of* January, $16\frac{79}{80}$.

THE ſubſcribed Envoy Extraordiuary of the King of *Great Britain*, ſeeing by the Memoir which the Embaſſador of *France* preſented yeſterday to your Lordſhips, that he continues by urgent inſtances to induce your Lordſhips to enter into that Defenſive League which the Moſt Chriſtian King propoſed to your Lordſhips ſometime ſince; he finds himſelf obliged by new Orders from the King his Maſter, to renew the Inſtances by him made to your Lordſhips by his Memoir of the *9th* Inſtant, That you will not enter into ſuch a Treaty as the King his Maſter cannot take to be other than an Engagement againſt His Majeſty, who pretends not to uſe ſuch Menaces as the Memoirs of the *French* Embaſſador are filled with; although the King his Maſter hath more cauſe to complain that your Lordſhips have but even now paſſed the Act of Guaranty, to which your Lordſhips were obliged by two ſuch ſolemn Treaties. But as His Majeſty takes nothing more to heart than the advantage of this Republick, yet he will not preſs them upon any thing that is not for their Conveniency and their Intereſt.

The King his Maſter perſwades himſelf alſo, that after all thoſe aſſurances of his Amity and Aſſiſtance in whatever may happen, which He hath given your Embaſſador at His Court, whereof without all doubt he hath informed your Lordſhips; you will not make an Alliance which He cannot judg to be other than againſt Himſelf; and that the Inſtances of the Moſt Chriſtian King, though too preſſing and importunate to be preſented to a Free Commonwealth, will not be capable to divert your Lordſhips from your True Intereſt, nor from the Amity and ſtrict Union between His Majeſty and this State, in a Time and on an Occaſion when He gives your Lordſhips ſo eſſential Marks, and when your Lordſhips have aſſured His Majeſty that you will continue and encreaſe the ſame on your parts.

Given at the Hague *this 23d of* January, $16\frac{79}{80}$.

SYDNEY.

Conſiderations upon the Alliance with France.

THE *French* King having by his Ambaſſador demanded of the States to renew their Alliance with him: His Majeſty hath all reaſon to believe that the States would accept of ſo advantageous an offer, and would the ſooner compleat this Alliance.

In regard they have renewed their Alliances with all the Princes with whom they have been in War.

And that having made peace with *England*, they have not only renewed their former, but concluded a more ſtrict Alliance than before.

And

And in the ſame Treaty wherein they made Peace with *Sweden*, they renewed their former Alliances.

The *French* King demands but the ſame thing of this State, which if they do not do, his Majeſty will have grounds to believe that the States have particular reaſons why they will have no Alliance, nor more ſtrict Friendſhip with him, and then his Majeſty hath juſt reaſon to take his Meaſures upon that Foot.

And his Majeſty will have the greater reaſon to do ſo, ſeeing the States have Alliances with all the other Princes of *Europe*, and the *French* King being the only Prince with whom they have not, nor will not have any; His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty hath reaſon to perſwade himſelf that all the Alliances the States have with other Princes, are deſigned only to take their Meaſures againſt him the firſt opportunity that ſhall preſent; nor will it at all excuſe them to ſay that the Alliances the States have with *England* and *Spain* were made during the States being involved in War, ſeeing the Alliance that *France* now propoſeth, conſiſts not of any particular Engagements, nor contains but the ſame Conditions that were demanded by theſe States *Anno* 1662.

If in the preſent Conjuncture of affairs they refuſe the renewing the Alliance with *France*, his Majeſty will have no ground to believe that they eſteem the intereſt of *France* and the States incompatible, and by conſequence that it will become him for ever to take other Meaſures, ſeeing the Eſtates declare to him that they believe it not for their Intereſt ever to allie themſelves with *France*.

If any one object, That notwithſtanding this Alliance may be neceſſary and good, yet they ought to remit the concluding of it to another time.

His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty being ignorant of any thing that can be a reaſon for this delay, he ought to believe that the States not daring abſolutely to refuſe this Alliance, they protract time only with a deſign not to make one.

And if theſe Reaſons, be they what they will, be not the ſame in ſix Months or a year, that they are at preſent, do not they then by conſequence imply a perpetual obſtacle to the renewing of friendſhip or alliance 'twixt *France* and the States?

Whether the Complaints that ſome Princes have made of the renewing this alliance, ought to be ſuſpected or not?

Whether a Prince, be he what he will, can oppoſe himſelf to the States in their making of innocent Alliances, and ſuch as he hath with them himſelf, without making it appear at the ſame time, that he will attack the one or the other, or that he hath ſome other hidden deſign?

The *French* King is ſo far from taking it ill that the States create themſelves new friends and alliances, that he would himſelf procure them for them, if he knew of a Prince with whom they have not already an alliance.

It is no reaſon to be given for the hindering the Alliance with *France*, to ſay that they will not make a League of *Guarantie* with *England*, ſeeing that League is as Declarative againſt *France* as the Triple League was.

That there is no compariſon in making a League of this nature with a Prince with whom they are already allied; and the renewing of an Alliance with one with whom they have none, although formerly they were ever ſtraitly allied.

Whether it can be ſaid that the States do remain neuter, and not do for one Prince what they have already done for another; as if they would ſtraitly allie themſelves with the one during the War, and refuſe to do ſo with the other during the Peace, and yet call it a State of Neutrality.

For if the Alliances made by the States during the War, hinder them from making an Alliance with *France* now; it is ſufficient to make his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty know, that the ſame Spirit that ruled againſt him, during the War, continues ſtill during the Peace.

And

And His Majeſty cannot believe that the States are ſincerely returned to him as he hath ſincerely given them his friendſhip, ſeeing they refuſe to give him thoſe marks of affection that he offers them, aud that they have at other times ſo ardently wiſhed for.

If they conſider the foundation of the moſt Chriſtian Kings demand to the States to renew the Alliance, they will find themſelves under a preciſe Obligation to perform it, ſeeing the *French* Kings Letter of the 18 of *May*, 1678, which the States accepted of, did not contain the Propoſitions of Peace, which were ſo agreeable to them, but under condition to re-enter into the ſame Bonds and Alliances, that they were anciently in with His Majeſty.

That notwithſtanding the *French* King hath no grounds to fear that his Forces are not ſufficient to defend himſelf againſt all the attempts of thoſe that bear him ill will; yet however, he thinks himſelf obliged to know what the States inclinations are as to his regard, as he is already ſatisfied of their ill intentions, who oppoſe the renewing of this Alliance, becauſe they cannot without fear and envy behold the advantages of ſuch an Union.

It is without good grounds that ſome affirm that the States have never made Alliances, but upon preſſing occaſions, as thoſe were with the ſeveral Princes during the War, and that theſe Alliances ceaſe with the Peace; for thoſe that know better the ſtate of things, are ſatisfied that the Alliance was not propoſed upon any particular account, but at the Inſtances of the States during the Peace; whereas the Alliances made with other Princes continue firm ſince the Wars, ſo that ſome are to continue yet 20 years, others 30 years, and others for ever, whileſt there is not one Prince except *France*, with whom the States will not have an Alliance.

It is eaſie to anſwer thoſe that ſay publickly, that the Alliance with *France* is aſſuredly advantageous; but however, the States ought to be judg of their own time when to make it.

Upon which 'tis agreed, that if the States would propoſe a new Alliance, it is juſt they ſhould chuſe their own time; but when his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty doth require them to renew the ancient Alliance they had with him, and they do it not, then it may be concluded, that they have reſpects, which they conſider more than the friendſhip of the *French* King.

Whereas if one duly conſider this Propoſition in it ſelf, one may ſay they have had more than time enough to determine it, ſince they have diſcourſed of the renewing this Alliance; ſeeing there was a Propoſition of this nature made in *May* laſt by a Miniſter of the Court of *France*.

And the *French* King ought to preſume, that the States are ſo vigilant in their own affairs, and ſo affectionate to him, that they would have reſolved ſince *May* laſt, of what they were to do in this affair; and now that his Ambaſſador came in concluſion to propoſe this Alliance, His Majeſty beholding their ſilence, cannot but doubt of their intentions for him, and demand a Deciſive anſwer, to the end he may once take his due meaſures.

Nor can the *French* King do otherwiſe than draw an ill conſequence from their denying to renew the Alliance with him, for fear of offending thoſe that without reaſon oppoſe it, and who can have no other deſign than hopes to make an offenſive League againſt him, do therefore hinder this Defenſive Alliance.

Nor can it be expected that the *French* King will always wait the States leaſure to reſolve, nor after ſo many advances of amity made by his Majeſty, but that the States muſt thank themſelves if His Majeſty, ſeeing his Alliance refuſed or neglected, take ſuch meaſures as ſhall not pleaſe them.

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